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DAREDEVIL

For centuries, the enigmatic organization known as the Hand has been a powerful dark agent in the underworld. Using its tentacle-like reach to control organized crime across international boundaries, the order uses its band of mystically charged assassins to expand its power base.

Recently, the Hand began its search for a new leader. Matt Murdock, the blind lawyer from Hell's Kitchen also known as Daredevil, was their top choice. Although Murdock had clashed with the Hand in the past — and seemed an unlikely candidate to assume leadership of the organization — the Hand coveted Murdock's skill and resilience. But Murdock rejected the offer, until the organization turned to its next candidate: Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin of Crime.

Murdock knew that the psychopath Fisk could not be allowed to take control of the group. The repercussions would be disastrous. He agreed to take control of the organization, believing he could foster change from within . . .

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LOWER MANHATTAN
WELCOME TO OUR IVORY TOWER, MISTER MURDOCK.

AS REQUESTED, WE HAVE PROVIDED YOUR LEGAL TEAM WITH DETAILS OF OUR HOLDINGS, FRONT COMPANIES AND LEGITIMATE ENTERPRISES IN THE UNITED STATES AND WORLDWIDE.
I HAVE NO LEGAL TEAM...

THIS IS FOR ME ALONE.

I SEE.
WE CAN PROVIDE BRAILLE COPIES IF YOU REQUIRE...
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
IT WOULD SEEM THAT ALREADY I UNDERESTIMATE YOU. FOR THIS I APOLOGIZE.
BANKING. SHIPPING. ENERGY FUTURES. YOUR REACH IS IMPRESSIVE.
AND OUR GRASP *INESCAPABLE*.
THIS IS AN AWFUL LOT OF INFORMATION TO ENTRUST TO A FORMER ENEMY.
TRUST IS NOT AN ISSUE. YOU HAVE *ACCEPTED* OUR OFFER. YOU HAVE SWORN TO LEAD THE *HAND*...
AND I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME IF I *RENEGED* ON OUR AGREEMENT.
NO, MISTER MURDOCK. BELIEVE ME...
YOU *CANNOT* IMAGINE.

SO. YOU ARE AWARE THERE WILL BE CERTAIN... STIPULATIONS.
TOKENS OF COMMITMENT WILL BE REQUIRED. SACRIFICES MUST BE MADE.
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT SACRIFICE.
I'M WELL AWARE OF WHAT I HAVE TO SACRIFICE.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TIME TO...PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE TESTING?
I'M READY. LET'S BEGIN.
I THINK YOU WILL FIND, MISTER MURDOCK...

"...IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN."
BROOKLYN
HALEY? ROLLINSON? WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
I GOT A CALL TO MEET MY C.I. HERE...
YEAH, HE, UH...HE COULDN'T MAKE IT.
NOBODY HERE BUT US COPS.
OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME.
YOU BEEN SAYING SOME BAD THINGS ABOUT US, KURTZ. HURTFUL.
WE'RE JUST HONEST COPS LIKE YOU, TRYIN' TO MAKE THE STREETS SAFE FOR DECENT PEOPLE, Y'UNNERSTAND?
HONEST COPS? YOU WERE BOTH SUSPENDED FOR USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE!
AT LEAST, UNTIL NORMAN OSBORN HAD YOU REINSTATED FOR HIS CRAZY ZERO-TOLERANCE INITIATIVE...

YEAH, NO, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT. YOU GOT IT ALL ASS-BACKWARDS.
YOU WANNA WATCH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THAT. ESPECIALLY IN COURT, Y'UNNERSTAND?
I'LL TELL THE TRUTH. NOT THAT IT EVEN MATTERS-- JUDGE WALDEN'S AS CROOKED AS THE TWO OF YOU.
ANOTHER OF OSBORN'S CRONIES. HE DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT CRIME, AS LONG AS HE CAN KEEP IT OUT OF THE PAPERS...
I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, DETECTIVE KURTZ.
JUDGE WALDEN? WHAT--
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...?
THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME FOR YOU, KURTZ...
OR THE END OF IT.

FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT.
HKK
HOLYYY
A-ARMED POLICE! DROP YOUR--
WEAPON...?

AVENGERS TOWER
WHAT DO YOU WANT, NORMAN?
YOU'VE SEEN THE NEWS, I TAKE IT? NO, WHY WOULD YOU...
A JUDGE WAS SLAIN HERE IN NEW YORK LAST NIGHT, ALONG WITH TWO POLICE OFFICERS.
POLICE LINE
GOOD.
SO WHAT?
IT'S AN AFFRONT TO THE VERY SYSTEM WE ARE SWORN TO UPHOLD, THAT'S WHAT.
WE MUST HAVE ORDER ON THE STREETS. WE MUST BE SEEN TO CRACK DOWN HARD ON ANYONE WHO DEFIES THE RULE OF LAW...
BECAUSE I AM THE RULE OF LAW.
LISTEN, NORMAN, WE'RE THE AVENGERS NOW. WE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.
GO SEND ANOTHER SWAT TEAM TO BODYBAG SOME PURSE-SNATCHERS, AND DON'T WASTE MY TIME WITH THIS PENNY-ANTE CRAP.

OH, BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THE GOOD PART YET.
DAREDEVIL WAS BEHIND IT.
WHAT?
THESE MEN WERE ASSASSINATED BY THE NINJA DEATH-CULT KNOWN AS THE HAND.
THE HAND'S NORTH AMERICAN LAIR IS RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK...
AND MY SOURCE INDICATES THAT THEIR NEWLY APPOINTED LEADER IS NONE OTHER THAN DAREDEVIL.
I DON'T BUY THAT FOR A SECOND.
DAREDEVIL DOESN'T KILL. ESPECIALLY NOT COPS AND JUDGES--EVEN IF THEY ARE CROOKED.
PERHAPS HE'S FINALLY REACHED HIS BREAKING POINT. I DON'T KNOW, AND FRANKLY I DON'T CARE, BULLSEYE.
HE'S SENDING ME A MESSAGE. SO I'M SENDING ONE BACK.
I'M SENDING HIM YOU.
HE MADE MY LIST...AND ALL YOUR CHRISTMASES HAVE COME AT ONCE.
I WANT YOU TO KILL DAREDEVIL.

IT'S THAT SLY OL' SON-OF-A-GUN AGAIN...
HE KEEPS TELLIN' ME I'M THE LUCKY ONE AGAIN...
REMEMBERED WHO YOU ARE.
HE'D FOLLOW ME AROUND, BUILD ME UP, TEAR ME DOWN...
'TIL I'D BE SO BEWILDERED, I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
...WITH THAT OL' DEVIL CALLED LOVE!

SOMEWHERE BENEATH NEW YORK
DO YOU YIELD?
N-NO...
THESE TORMENTS YOU HAVE ENDURED ARE BUT A TASTE OF WHAT IS TO COME.
YOU ARE SPENT. YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE.
YOU HAVE BUT TO YIELD, AND THERE WILL BE AN END TO THE PAIN.
YIELD, AND YOU MAY RETURN TO THE COMFORTS OF YOUR OLD LIFE.
NO!
VERY WELL.
CUT HIM DOWN. HE HAS PASSED THE TRIAL OF TORMENTS.
UNNGH!
THEN IT'S...IT'S OVER...?
NO.
BEFORE YOU NOW LIES THE TRIAL OF COMBAT, WHEREIN YOU MUST SLAY THE CHAMPION OF THE HAND...
...BEFORE HE SLAYS YOU.
ON YOUR FEET, DEGENERATE!
UNLESS YOU WISH ME TO END YOU WHERE YOU LIE!

I WON'T...
WON'T... KILL!
THEN YOU WILL DIE!
WE ARE THE HAND! WE ARE DEATH!
WHAT ARE WE IF WE DO NOT KILL? WE ARE NOTHING--
HKK!
WHAT--?
HEY, PARDON ME FOR CUTTING IN--
BUT I'D HATE FOR HIM TO HAVE KILLED YOU BEFORE I GOT THE CHANCE!

BULLSEYE!
YOU MUST BE CRAZY IF YOU THINK YOU CAN COME HERE ALONE AND CHALLENGE ME--!
AND WE BOTH KNOW I'M NOT CRAZY.
RIGHT...?
H.A.M.M.E.R. TEAM-- MOVE IN!
NO PRISONERS!

OUR SANCTUM IS BREACHED--!
PUT THE INTRUDERS IN THEIR GRAVES!
SO LEMME GET THIS STRAIGHT--YOU WANNA BE THE LEADER OF A NINJA ASSASSIN DEATH CULT, BUT YOU WON'T KILL?
WHAT WERE YOU GONNA DO, SEND OUT A MEMO?
FOR YOU, BULLSEYE, I MAY JUST MAKE AN EXCEPTION...
YA AIN'T GOT THE GUTS!
SEE, THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AN' ME! I DO MY OWN KILLIN', INSTEAD OF HIDIN' BEHIND AN ARMY OF FACELESS GOONS!
THAT'S RIGHT, HORNHEAD! I'M CALLIN' YOU A COWARD!
COME OUT AN' FACE ME! ONE LAST TIME, MAN TO MAN--FER KEEPS!
YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME, LESTER?

THING IS, IT'S GETTIN' A LITTLE HOT IN HERE!
WHADDAYA SAY WE GO FIND SOME PLACE A LITTLE MORE... PRIVATE!
LET US TAKE HIM--
WE OUTNUMBER HIM A HUNDRED TO ONE--
NO!
BLACK TARANTULA, WHITE TIGER-- SECURE THE INNER SANCTUM!
HE'S MINE!
HA!

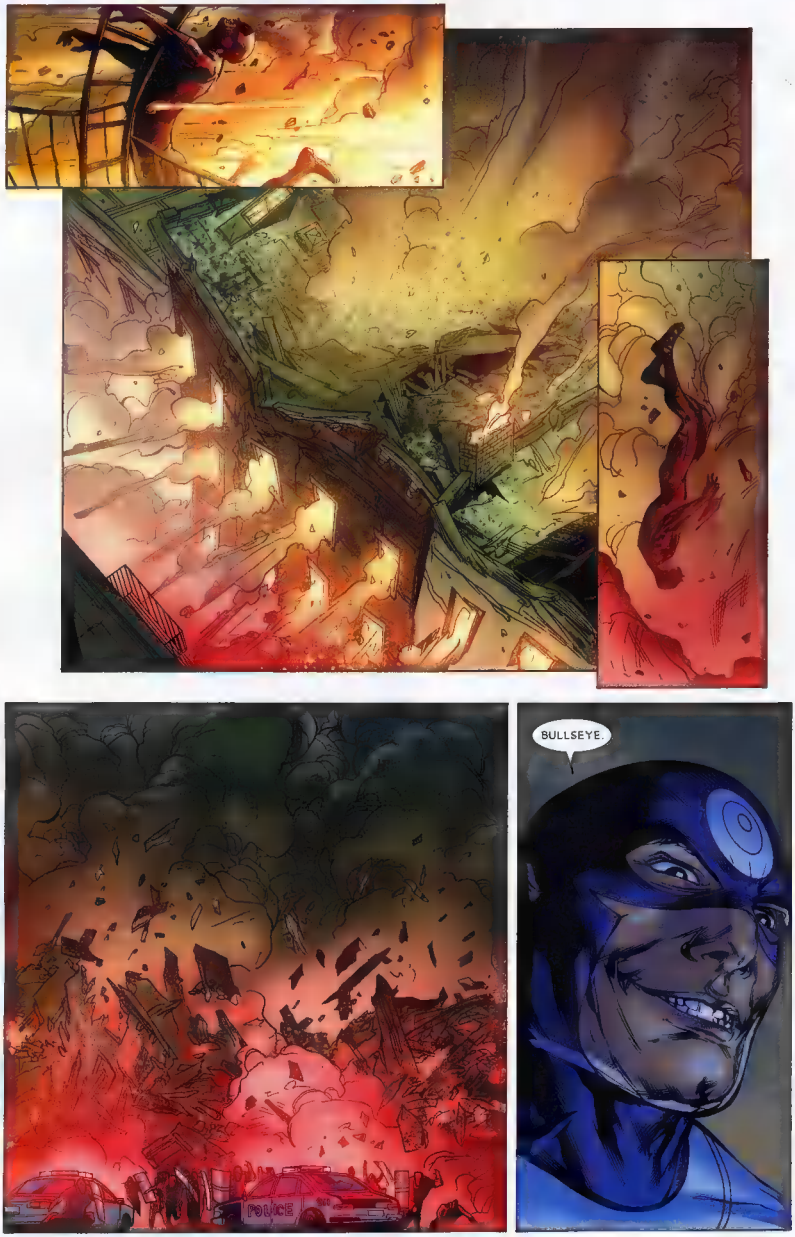
ATTABOY, HORNHEAD... NEVER SAY DIE!

HELL'S KITCHEN
YOUR SIT-IN PROTEST HAS BEEN DECLARED UNLAWFUL!
THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN CONDEMNED AND IS SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION!
YEAH, SO THAT OSCORP CAN TURN IT INTO CONDOS!
WE LIVE HERE! WE AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE!
SAVE OUR HOME
PEOPLE OVER PROFIT
POLICE
THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING!
LEAVE THE BUILDING NOW OR YOU WILL BE REMOVED BY FORCE!
LIKE WHEN YOU BUMS PUT THREE OF OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE HOSPITAL JUST FOR DEFENDING THEIR HOMES?
GET OUTTA HERE!
HEY DAD, LOOK--!
IT'S DAREDEVIL!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW HE'D HELP US...
THERE'S A REASON WE STAYED IN HELL'S KITCHEN, KID.

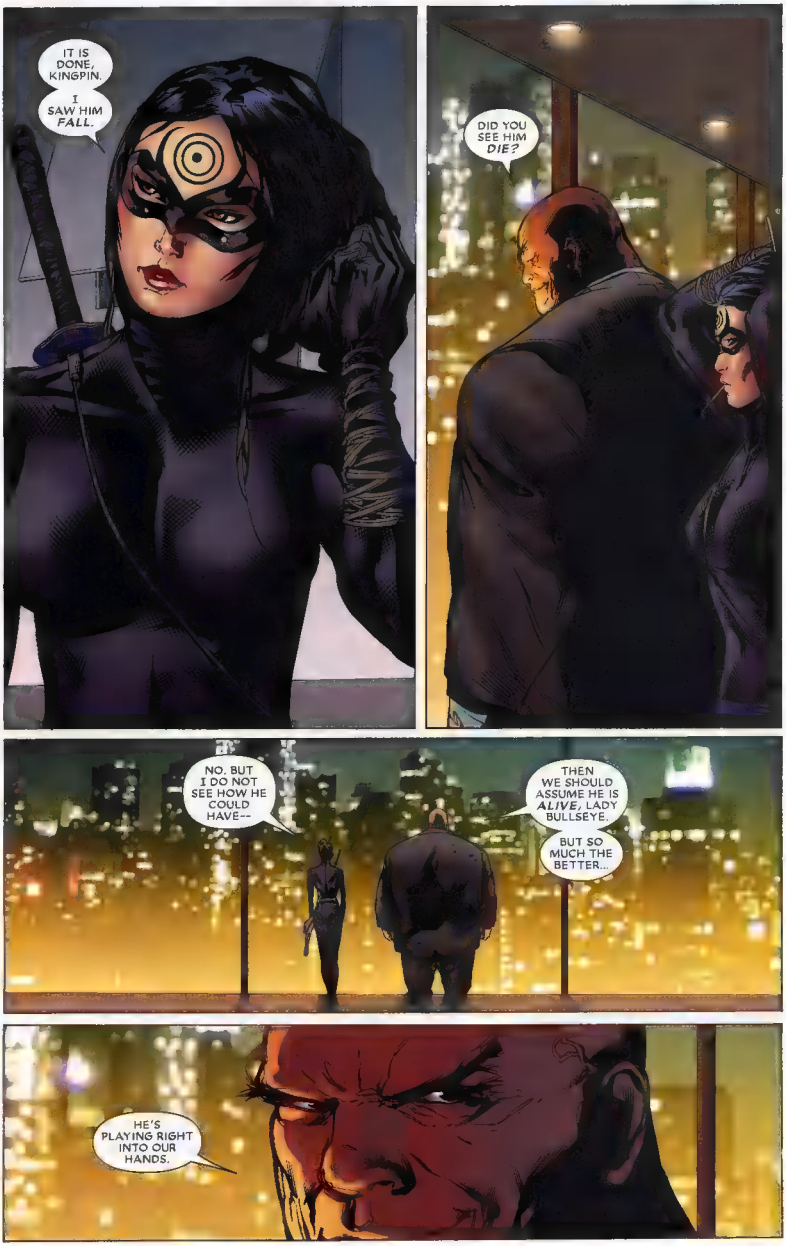
WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW--A WHOLE TENEMENT BLOCK FULLA CIVVIES IN NEED!
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF!
NO--!
UNNGH--!
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER HELL'S KITCHEN ROOFTOP.
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, EH?
AND EVERY ONE OF THOSE TIMES WE FOUGHT, LESTER... I *BEAT* YOU.
WHY DO YOU THINK *THIS TIME'S* GOING TO BE ANY *DIFFERENT?*

'CAUSE WE'VE CHANGED THE *RULES*. THAT'S WHY.
BESIDES, I JUST WANTED TO GET YOU ONTO THAT *CONDEMNED BUILDING*. I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT ACTUALLY *FIGHTING*.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
IT'S FUNNY-- THERE MUST BE OVER A *HUNDRED PROTESTORS* IN THAT BUILDING.
JUST THINK OF ALL THE *INNOCENT LIVES* YOU COULD HAVE SAVED IF YOU'D JUST *KILLED* ME WHEN YOU HAD THE *CHANCE!*

DON'T--!


BULLSEYE.
POLICE

IS IT DONE?


IT IS DONE, KINGPIN.
I SAW HIM *FALL*.
DID YOU SEE HIM *DIE?*
NO. BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW HE COULD HAVE--
THEN WE SHOULD ASSUME HE IS *ALIVE,* LADY BULLSEYE.
BUT SO MUCH THE BETTER...
HE'S PLAYING RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS.

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN.
THAT'S HOW MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE DIED HERE TONIGHT.
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN...
BECAUSE OF ME.
YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN HE WOULD--
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
NOT ANY MORE.
BULLSEYE WAS RIGHT. THE GAME HAS CHANGED.
THEY HANDED NORMAN OSBORN THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM. THEY OWN THE COURTROOMS. THEY OWN THE POLICE FORCE...
AND NOW THEY'RE MURDERING PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES.
SO WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO ABOUT THAT?

DARK REIGN: THE LIST

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

ANDY DIGGLE writer
BILLY TAN pencils
MATT BANNING inker
JUSTIN PONSOR colors
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letters

ALEJANDRO ARBONA asst. editor
WARREN SIMONS editor
JOE QUESADA editor-in-chief
DAN BUCKLEY publisher
ALAN FINE exec. producer

DAREDEVIL'S STORY CONTINUES...

Exclusive preview of
DAREDEVIL #501
by ANDY DIGGLE and
ROBERTO DE LA TORRE!

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN BRAVE SOULS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COMMUNITY.
WHENEVER SUCH A TRAGEDY BEFALLS THE INNOCENT, WE CANNOT HELP BUT FIND OURSELVES ASKING WHY.
WHY DID GOD LET THIS HAPPEN? WHY DOES HE ALLOW SUCH EVIL TO EXIST?
SUCH QUESTIONS ARE ONLY NATURAL. BUT IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO QUESTION HIS WISDOM, NOR CHALLENGE HIS MOTIVES.
INSTEAD, IT IS ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT WHEN JUSTICE CANNOT BE FOUND IN THIS WORLD, IT WILL SURELY BE FOUND IN THE NEXT.
WHEN THESE HUNDRED AND SEVEN SAW INJUSTICE, THEY DID NOT WAIT FOR GOD TO INTERVENE. WHEN THEY SAW THEIR COMMUNITY THREATENED, THEY ACTED.
THEY KNEW THAT EVIL MAY ONLY EVER TRULY PREVAIL...

THE DEVIL'S HAND

PART ONE

ANDY DIGGLE
writer

ROBERTO De La TORRE
art

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH
colors

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
letters

ALEJANDRO ARBONA
asst. editor

WARREN SIMONS
editor

JOE QUESADA
editor in chief

DAN BUCKLEY
publisher

ALAN FINE
exec. producer

ALL OF THIS...THIS *DEATH*.
IT'S ALL *MY* FAULT, IZO.
STOP BEATING YOURSELF UP, KID. IT WAS *BULLSEYE* BLEW UP THAT BUILDING, NOT YOU.
YOU DIDN'T DO A THING.
EXACTLY. I DIDN'T DO A DAMN *THING*.
I JUST *STOOD BY* AND LET IT HAPPEN.
THE PRIEST DOWN THERE, HE'S TALKING ABOUT *SACRIFICE*. BUT THOSE PEOPLE DIDN'T *OFFER* THEIR LIVES. THEIR LIVES WERE *TAKEN* FROM THEM...
WHILE I HAD AN *ARMY* AT MY COMMAND.

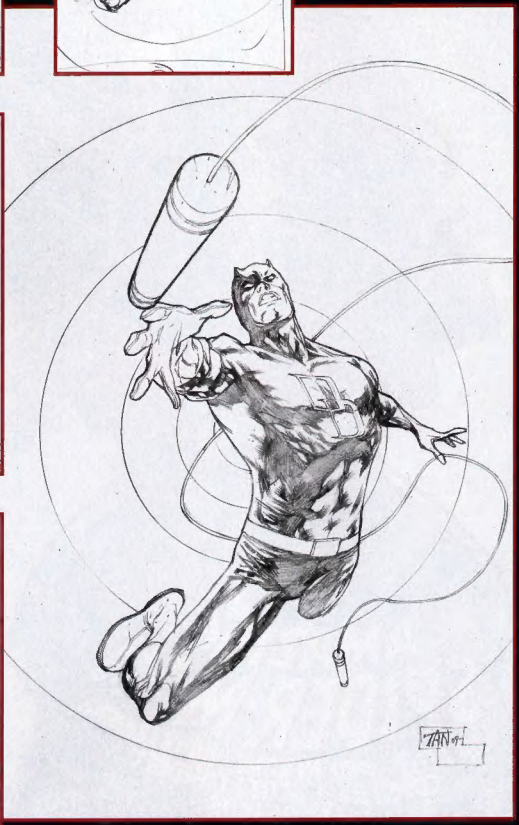
AN ARMY OF KILLERS. ASSASSINS. DEATH CULTISTS.
NEVER FORGET WHAT THE HAND TRULY IS.
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY ARE. THE POINT IS, I COULD HAVE USED THEM. I COULD HAVE STOPPED THIS FROM HAPPENING.
INSTEAD I HAD THEM STAND IDLE WHILE I WALKED RIGHT INTO BULLSEYE'S TRAP...
AND ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN INNOCENT PEOPLE PAID THE PRICE FOR MY ARROGANCE.
IF YOU ONLY BROUGHT ME HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED AN AUDIENCE TO WATCH YOU WALLOW IN GUILT, I'VE GOT BETTER PLACES TO BE.
FUN PLACES, WITH GIRLS AND WHISKEY AND DICE.
YOU THINK I CAN JUST SHRUG THIS OFF?
LISTEN, KID. YOU LIVE AS LONG AS I HAVE, EVENTUALLY YOU LEARN THAT THE WORLD KEEPS TURNING WHETHER YOU SCREW UP OR NOT.
YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN. BUT THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD? AIN'T YOUR BURDEN TO CARRY.

I USED TO THINK JUSTICE COULD BE FOUND IN THE COURTROOM--OR IF THAT FAILED, DAREDEVIL COULD ALWAYS FIND IT ON THE STREET...
BUT NOW THE STREETS ARE PATROLLED BY H.A.M.M.E.R.--THE COURTROOMS ARE CONTROLLED BY NORMAN OSBORN, FOR GOD'S SAKE.
IT'S CRAZY. EVERYTHING'S UPSIDE DOWN...
WE'VE BEEN PLAYING THE SAME OLD GAMES WE ALWAYS HAVE, BUT OUR ENEMIES CHANGED THE RULES ON US.
WE NEED TO FIND A NEW WAY TO PLAY, OR WE'RE DEAD.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA SAY NEXT--BUT TRUST ME, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT HERE. I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THEM FOR CENTURIES.
THE HAND IS JUST A WEAPON, AND A WEAPON CAN BE USED FOR GOOD INSTEAD OF EVIL...
...IF THE MAN WHO WIELDS IT IS RIGHTEOUS.

EMBRACING THE HAND ISN'T *PENANCE*, KID. IT'S A *DEATH SENTENCE* FOR THE *SOUL*.
BUT WHAT IF ONE *SACRIFICE* COULD MAKE IT RIGHT?
ONE LIFE TO SAVE *MANY*?
THROW YOURSELF OFF THE ROOF IF YOU WANT. BUT IT WON'T BRING BULLSEYE'S VICTIMS BACK.
IT'S NOT MY LIFE I'M TALKING ABOUT.
IT'S *YOURS*.
...WHAT?
MY *INITIATION* DEMANDS A *SACRIFICE*...

THEY WANT YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED IN DAREDEVIL #501!

Sketches and pencils by
BILLY TAN



Inks by
MATT BANNING

Alternate color take by
FRANK D'ARMATA

Under the leadership of Matt Murdock, the ninja of the Hand begin wearing costumes inspired by Daredevil.

Upcoming DAREDEVIL artist ROBERTO De La TORRE created designs for these costumes.